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List of Reptiles and Batrachians of Morton County, Kansas, Reporting Species New to the State Fauna

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DURING the summers of 1926, 1927 and 1928, parties from the University of Kansas Biological Survey spent some time in Morton county for the purpose of making collections of birds, mammals and reptiles.

In 1926 the party consisted of Henry Burt, Theodore White, Wallace Lane and Edward Taylor. White and Taylor devoted most of their efforts to obtaining herpetological specimens, during the stay which lasted from August 16 to August 24.

In 1927 a party consisting of Henry Burt, Lawrence Compton, Wallace Lane and Harry Parker spent most of the month of June in the county. Special emphasis was placed on mammal and bird collecting, and only a meager collection of reptiles and batrachians was obtained.

In June, 1928, Edward Taylor and Albert Lunceford, Jr., visited the county and practically all the time of the seven days' stay was spent in searching for reptiles and batrachians. A few days were also spent there late in August.

Morton county lies in the extreme southwestern corner of the state of Kansas. It is crossed by the Cimarron river which here is a veritable river of sand; and much sand is to be found along its valley. To the north are low bluffs which show an outcropping of hard volcanic ash.

Camps were made at the Wood Walsh ranch. The collecting for the most part was done along the river, in the sand dunes to the south and along the low bluffs to the north where the blocks of weathered volcanic ash offer shelter to certain species of lizards,

snakes and batrachians. This general locality is about 12 miles northeast of Elkhart.

The collecting parties are under greatest obligation to Mr. Wood Walsh and his family for innumerable courtesies and valued assistance.

The following species were taken:

TURTLES

1. *Chelydra serpentina* (Linné). One specimen taken (1926) in a small pool in the Cimarron river.

2. *Kinosternon flavescens* (Agassiz). Extremely common in occasional pools in the river bed, and in ponds and reservoirs. More than fifty specimens were collected.

3. *Terrapene ornata* (Agassiz). Specimens of this species were plentiful everywhere. A large series was taken.

LIZARDS

4. *Holbrookia maculata maculata* (Girard). Very common on both sides of the Cimarron river.

5. *Sceloporus undulatus thayerii* (Baird and Girard). Very common on both sides of the Cimarron river.

6. *Phrynosoma cornutum* (Harlan). More than 25 specimens were collected which represented all that were seen. This species is much less common than the two preceding species.

7. *Cnemidophorus sexlineatus sexlineatus* (Linné). Rare. No specimens were found in 1926 or 1927. A few specimens were taken in 1928 near the ranch house.

8. *Eumeces obsoletus* (Baird and Girard). Rare. Two specimens taken in 1926 and two in 1928 represent all the specimens found.

SNAKES

9. *Heterodon contortrix* (Linné). A single specimen taken in 1926.

10. *Heterodon nasicus* (Baird and Girard). A single dead specimen was found, but not preserved (1926).

11. *Coluber constrictor flaviventris* (Say). Several specimens taken each of the three years. Common.

12. *Masticophis flagellum flavigularis* (Hallowell). Several specimens taken each of the three years. Common.

13. *Pituophis sayi sayi* (Schlegel). Several specimens found each of the three years. Common.

14. *Lampropeltis triangulum gentilis* (Baird and Girard). Discovered by Albert Lunceford, Jr., in the bluffs to the north of the river. Four specimens taken in June, 1928.

15. *Arizona elegans elegans* (Kennicott). Two specimens of this rare night-roving snake were collected by Henry Burt in 1927. He found the specimens in the sand dunes south of the river at night while trapping small mammals. These represent the second and third specimens known from the state. The

first was collected by C. D. Bunker in Clark county. This is the first published record of its occurrence in Kansas.

16. *Thamnophis marcianus* (Baird and Girard). Taken at Spring creek, a small rivulet fed by springs, north of the river and near the western border of the county. Two specimens were obtained in 1926, and one in 1928. They seem to maintain their typical characters and do not appear to merge into *Thamnophis radix radix* (Baird and Girard), which occurs in the same locality. No specimens of this form have been taken in Kansas in recent years. The name appears in two early lists.*

17. *Thamnophis radix radix* (Baird and Girard). Common along small pools in the river, reservoirs and ponds, and along Spring creek.

18. *Tantilla nigriceps* (Kennicott). A few specimens were taken each year under rocks along the bluff north of the river.

19. *Crotalus confluentus confluentus* (Say). This form was reported as being common but only a single specimen was acquired on the three collecting trips.

AMPHIBIANS.

20. *Ambystoma tigrinum* (Green). Larvæ were extremely numerous in a reservoir on a farm six miles north of the river; more than two hundred were taken in a tank about 50 feet long by 25 feet wide. Adults were found about midnight coming to the surface of the ground out of prairie dog holes in a prairie dog town about three hundred yards north of the river and about 200 yards from a water reservoir. Only a single salamander was found in each hole. Dunn expresses the opinion (in letter) that the Kansas form is *A. mavortium*.

21. *Scaphiopus hammondi bombifrons* (Cope). Specimens were taken on August 18, 1926, and on June 8, 1928, after very heavy rainfalls. Large numbers congregated at breeding places. Three such groups were found in a radius of two miles and more than fifty specimens were taken on each of the two dates.

22. *Bufo debilis* (Girard). I found this small toad after a heavy hail and rainstorm on August 8, 1926. While collecting late at night the thin, feeble piping was heard more than half a mile away. After long search two specimens were found in icy water in a small temporary pool into which much hail had washed. Several dead specimens killed by hail were found at a large temporary lake six miles north of the river. In 1928, Albert Lunceford, Jr., discovered specimens under rocks in the bluffs north of the river. These records are the first authentic reports of occurrences of this species in the state.

23. *Bufo woodhousii* (Girard). Common. Very large adults were found in the prairie-dog villages at night. They hide in the holes during the day.

24. *Bufo cognatus* (Say). Three specimens were found dead after the hail and rainstorm August 18, 1926, six miles north of Walsh's ranch.

25. *Rana pipiens* (Schreber). This species was found to be very numerous along Spring creek about 6 miles west of Walsh's ranch. Specimens appear to approach the characters of the southern *Rana sphenocephala* (Cope).

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* Mosley, Kansas Acad. Sci., vol. 6 (1877-'78), 34-35, lists "*E Marcinana* (sic) B. and G Douglas Co." which is either an error of identification or of locality. Since *Thamnophis radix radix* is not listed, I strongly suspect the specimen examined was of this species since it occurs in Douglas county.

Cragin, Kansas Acad. Sci., vol. 7 (1878-'80), 116, lists "*Eutænia marciana* B. and G. Marcy's garter snake. Ft. Hays (Garman), Douglas county (Mozley)."